

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claim 1. **(Previously presented)** A method of preparing a biodegradable polymeric delivery system for delivering a biologically active agent to a subject, wherein the biodegradable polymeric delivery system maintains a pH of greater than 3 during biodegradation of the polymeric delivery system over a period of 4 weeks, comprising:

- a) forming a polymer solution comprising a solvent and a poly(lactide-*co*-glycolide) (PLGA) polymer which comprises from 50% to 100% lactide or lactic acid and from 50% to 0% glycolide or glycolic acid, wherein said lactide or lactic acid is selected from the group consisting of the L isomer, the D isomer, or a D,L racemic mixture;
- b) blending from 10% to 30% (w/w) of a pore forming agent with the PLGA polymer solution to provide a resulting solution comprising the polymer and pore forming agent;
- c) dispersing the biologically active agent in the resulting polymer solution; and
- d) solidifying the polymer from the resulting polymer solution to provide a biodegradable polymeric system whose microclimate maintains a pH of greater than 3 during biodegradation of the polymeric system for at least 4 weeks.

Claim 2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein from 20 to 30% of the pore-forming agent is blended with PLGA polymer solution.

Claim 3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the pore forming agent is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of from 500 to 30, 000.

Claim 4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of from 4000 to 10,000.

Claim 5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the pore forming agent is a water-soluble poloxamer having a molecular weight of from 500 to 30, 000.

Claim 6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the poloxamer has a molecular weight of from 4000 to 10,000.

Claim 7. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the polymer comprises 100% lactic acid or lactide and wherein between 10% and 20% PEG is added to the polymer solution.